

case of ulcer has the right to ambulatory treatment at the outset, by proper diet and by alkaline medication, without loss of time from work and without loss of weight and efficiency; with the understanding that most of them on such a plan get rid of their symptoms and do as well as after more energetic measures.

These conclusions are the result of a good many years of personal experience, are generally accepted as correct by those who have the most experience; and are only repeated now because there seems to be so many who are not yet familiar with them.

WILLIAM FITCH CHENEY.

Shreve Building, San Francisco.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO *

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. III, No. 7, July 1905

From some editorial notes:

State Journals.—With July, two new state society journals will make their appearance; the medical associations of Ohio and Texas have recently so voted. We shall be very glad to welcome these journals when they appear, and we certainly extend to them every good wish for long, successful and upright lives. . . .

The Rules of the Council.—By a curious coincidence, two items were received in the office of the journal within the hour. One was a copy of the *Journal A. M. A.* for June 3, and the other was a box containing what appears to be several original packages of a medicinal preparation known as *sal hepatica*. . . . The journal mentioned contains the advertisement of *sal hepatica*, in which it is recommended for the treatment of typhoid fever, etc.; so it evidently is regarded as a medicine. The nearest approach to a formula is, "*Sal hepatica* is composed of the chemically pure salts which analysis has shown to be present in the most celebrated purgative, '*Bitter Waters*,' of Europe." The names or the quantities of these salts are matters left to the imagination. . . .

From an article on "The Use of Hyoscin Hydrobromate in the Treatment of the Morphin Habit, With Report of Cases" by R. E. Bering, M. D., Tulare.

When we read the various textbooks on the treatment of the morphin habit, written by some of the ablest men in the country, and endeavor to carry out the plan of treatment suggested, it is no wonder so few physicians in general practice ever undertake to free their unfortunate patients from this dreaded curse, with all its accompanying nervous manifestations, collapse, oftentimes death, and suffering that no words can describe. . . .

From an article on "Uncinariasis in California, Based on Observation of Sixty-Two Cases" by Herbert Gunn, M. D., San Francisco.

The reasons which prompted the writer to investigate the subject under consideration were that during the year 1904 he encountered, comparatively speaking, a somewhat unusual number of cases of uncinariasis, in the ordinary course of practice and in his service in Doctor Hirschfelder's wards of the City and County Hospital of San Francisco, and that he became aware of the fact that quite a number of Porto Ricans were located in this state. The belief that the disease was being overlooked, and that a somewhat extensive importation had occurred, was found upon investigation to be justified.

Only two years ago it was stated that only thirty-eight cases of uncinariasis had been reported in the United States. Since that date many cases have been

found to be endemic in many of the southern states, as far west as Texas. . . .

From an article on "A Case of Human Glanders" by William Fitch Cheney, M. D., San Francisco.

. . . I have tried to secure some statistics as to the incidence of human glanders in California, but can find none. The secretary of the State Board of Health, in reply to my inquiry, writes me that the board has no statistics on the subject, and there seems to be no way to discover in how many instances human glanders has been assigned as a cause of death in the state. . . .

From medical society reports:

Monterey County.—To His Excellency, George C. Pardee: At a regular meeting of the Monterey County Medical Society, held at Monterey on April 1, 1905, the following was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The medical profession is honored by having one of our esteemed members the Governor of our fair state; and

Whereas, He has safely piloted the California ship of state with flying colors through two legislative tempests—his course being marked patriotism, sound judgment and loyalty to his beloved profession; and

Whereas, His recent act in vetoing the vicious anti-vaccination bill, and his unanswerable logic in defense of that action, shows us that he is "not only George C. Pardee, but Doctor Pardee, a physician of integrity"; be it

Resolved, By the Monterey County Medical Society that we heartily commend the action of Governor George C. Pardee in thus guarding the health, wealth and reputation of our state; and be it further

Resolved, That we consider that the further and continued service of Doctor Pardee in the gubernatorial chair will safeguard the best interests of both our state and profession, and to that end we give him our best wishes; and be it further

Resolved, That our secretary be hereby instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to Governor Pardee, to the *California State Journal of Medicine*, and the local press, and that a copy be placed upon our books.

D. BRUMWELL, Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

By W. M. DICKIE, Director

Many Adults Anxiously Seek Birth Certificates.

With the great stimulus that has been given to travel in foreign countries, the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the State Department of Public Health has experienced a great rush in the demand for certified copies of certificates of birth. These are desired by individuals who wish to secure passports and who desire to secure certified copies of their birth certificates as evidence of their citizenship to facilitate the securing of such passports.

Individuals who were born in California since July of 1905, when the state registration of vital statistics began, have little or no trouble in securing copies of their birth certificates, but individuals who were born before that time are experiencing great difficulty in securing evidence of birth. Many such individuals have just come to a full realization of the importance of the birth certificate as a legal document, and many of them have petitioned the superior court of the county in which they were born to establish fact of birth. This is an expensive procedure for most people and it emphasizes again the importance of securing the registration at time of birth of every birth that may occur.

Among the important proofs which are supplied by the evidence presented in birth certificates are proofs of age, citizenship, inheritance rights, and lineage.

* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.

Legal evidence regarding age is required in many places for the purpose of gaining entrance to school, securing the right to employment, to vote, to drive an automobile, to marry, and to enlist in military service. Birth certificates are also of value in connection with jury duty, in criminal procedure, in the establishment of legal dependency, and other legal and social uses. Proof of citizenship is especially valuable with relation to the ownership of property, the right to hold certain offices, to enter civil service, to gain admission to certain professions, to secure exemption from military service in foreign countries, and to collect compensation from the government. Birth certificates are used constantly to secure war compensation, to prove claims of widows and orphans, to secure state aid and other charities, to collect pensions, and to prove other matters where it is necessary to establish parentage. There are very few activities, in fact, where the birth certificate may not be used to great advantage by any individual, and in many cases it is an essential requirement.

With the added complications that come into the expanding social system the birth certificate takes on an added significance. It is probable, in fact, that the time is not far distant when every individual will find it necessary to carry a copy of his birth certificate with him at all times. Many individuals, in fact, now carry small photographic copies of their birth certificates with them, at all times, along with their license to operate a motor vehicle, club membership cards and similar identifications. It may not be long before this custom becomes universal in its application.

Imperial Organizes Full-Time County Health Unit. The board of supervisors of Imperial County have organized the health department of that county upon a full-time basis. They have provided an annual budget of more than \$15,000 and have appointed Dr. Warren Fox, formerly city health officer of Pasadena and more recently connected with the Los Angeles County Health Department, as health officer of Imperial County. Doctor Fox will have adequate assistance in public health nurses, dairy and milk inspector, sanitary inspector and laboratory technician, in addition to office and clerical help. The United States Public Health Service will be responsible for a small portion of the annual budget, but most of the funds are provided by the county board of supervisors. Imperial is the fourteenth California county to organize upon a full-time basis.

Public Health Courses at Michigan.—The Division of Hygiene, Public Health and Physical Education of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor has announced courses in public health to be given during the coming summer session of the university, June 30 to August 8. The courses offered cover many phases of public health administration, including child hygiene, public health nursing, nutrition, vital statistics, epidemiology, industrial hygiene, and many other related subjects. Dr. John Sundwall is the director of the Department of Hygiene and Public Health at Michigan.

Status of Epidemic Poliomyelitis.—There have been eighty-six cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis reported in California since the first of the year.

Since many cases are not recognized as acute anterior poliomyelitis, it is important that all cases which may be at all symptomatic of this disease be recognized and placed under control without delay.

It has been observed that in those years when poliomyelitis becomes unusually prevalent in the late spring and early summer, there is nearly always an extensive and disastrous outbreak of the disease in the late summer and early fall, when under normal conditions, the disease is seasonally more prevalent. The prompt institution of control measures at the present time, therefore, is of the utmost importance in order that the chances for a widespread epidemic during the coming fall may be minimized.

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary of the Board

News Items, July 1930

Dr. J. B. Harris, recently elected president-elect of the California Medical Society, was the honored guest at a meeting of the Sutter Club members last night (Sacramento *Bee*, May 17, 1930).

The Federal Radio Commission refused today to renew the license of station KFKB, Milford, Kansas, which has broadcast a medical question box conducted by Dr. John R. Brinkley. The Kansas State Medical Association stated Brinkley was broadcasting objectionable matter (San Francisco *Examiner*, June 14, 1930).

R. H. Albrectondare (whose real name is said to be A. Hunhas) was reported to have been found guilty of a petty theft charge in the city of Los Angeles recently and sentenced to serve six months in the city jail. (Previous entries, June 1925; March 1926; February and December 1927.)

According to reports, Clayton C. Allen, unlicensed, was arrested in Los Angeles, January 30, 1930, for violation of the State Poison Law, and it is reported that there was found under a cupboard drawer in his bathroom a one-ounce can of morphin, two empty morphin cans, one hypodermic outfit, and one bundle of morphin.

Trial judges granting suspended sentences to those found guilty of a criminal offense without first referring the case to a probation officer, are acting in violation of the law as amended in 1929, is the conclusion reached from an opinion submitted by Attorney-General U. S. Webb . . . (Los Angeles *News*, May 21, 1930).

Sixty days each in the county jail was the sentence imposed upon Dr. Roy Ankenbrand, twenty-five, chiropractor, and Wilfred E. Collantz, thirty-two, for theft of money from perfume-vending machines (Los Angeles *Illustrated Daily News*, June 9, 1930).

Accused of having bilked hundreds of people in the bay region out of several thousand dollars on the representation that he was a member of the staff of the famous Mayo Brothers Institute of Rochester, Minnesota, a man giving the name of "Dr. Donald C. Balfour" is today at the city prison charged with violating the State Medical Practice Act. He was arrested today by Inspector J. W. Davidson, State Board of Medical Examiners, and Lieutenant of Police James Milloy. Balfour admitted he had treated many people and had collected \$10 from each of them for his efforts (San Francisco *News*, May 13, 1930). According to the San Francisco *Examiner* of May 14, he paid a fine of \$100 for practicing medicine without a license and is quoted in the San Francisco *Call-Bulletin* of May 13 as stating, "I merely laid a hypodermic needle on the arms of my patients . . . and then while they looked the other way, I pinched them. They all claimed I cured them when other doctors failed." Barnum was right.

Shoulders back, chin up, his gray pompadour stretching upward to a point five feet four inches from the floor, Bernard Bernard, Sausalito physical culture director, today heard himself fined \$1000 by Federal Judge A. F. St. Sure for teaching people how to grow tall. A small fine was assessed against Louise Glover, five feet eleven inches. The two, according to postal authorities, used the mails to broadcast an offer to make anybody taller for \$8.75. Their income, inspectors said, ran around \$40,000 a year (San Francisco *News*, April 30, 1930).